



Who are we?

- Employee Freedom Minnesota is a project of the Freedom Club.
- The Freedom Club is a non-profit corporation that aims to restore just and limited government while preserving economic prosperity for all.
- Our membership consists of current and former business owners, executives representing companies of every size, attorneys, accountants, bankers, civic leaders and more.
- Freedom Club members share the common desire to make Minnesota the best place to live, work and raise a family for our generation and many more to come.

What's at issue?

- Every Minnesotan deserves the freedom to decide whether or not to join a union and whether or not to pay union dues.
- Just like workers in 22 other states, no one should be forced to join a union or pay dues to an organization they do not wish to belong.
- The Freedom Club encourages the Minnesota legislature to pass a constitutional amendment, during the 2012 legislative session. The amendment would give individual voters the freedom to decide whether to become an employee freedom state.

Why should Minnesota Republicans support an Employee Freedom Constitutional Amendment?

- Employee freedom is in the Republican Party of Minnesota Standing Platform under *Respect the Right to Personal Privacy and Property*.
- Recent public polling shows that 73% of likely 2012 voters support an Employee Freedom Constitutional Amendment. Furthermore, the support is universal across party lines, geographic boundaries and among union members.
- The amendment would increase economic prosperity including:
 - Additional manufacturing dollars
 - Increased job growth
 - Higher disposable income
- Individual Freedom – Minnesota workers should be granted the full freedom of association. By becoming an employee freedom state, Minnesotans will finally have that freedom.

What are common GOP misconceptions about employee freedom?

- **Misconception:** If the Employee Freedom Constitutional Amendment is on the 2012 ballot, union members across Minnesota will rise up and diminish the chance of retaining legislative majorities.
- **Fact:** Recent polling shows that 73% of likely 2012 voters support an Employee Freedom Constitutional Amendment. Furthermore, the support is universal across party lines, geographic boundaries and among union members.

- **Misconception:** If the Employee Freedom Constitutional Amendment is *not* on the 2012 ballot, union organizations and their allies will give GOP legislators a free pass during the 2012 election.



- **Fact:** Regardless of the Employee Freedom Constitutional Amendment, multiple reasons indicate that the GOP will have a harder time maintaining their majorities in 2012 than they had winning them in 2010. First off, Republicans and their allied organizations were outspent nearly 3 to 1 by the other side in 2010. Fortunately for GOP legislative candidates, most of the DFL resources were spent against the Republican candidate for governor. This will not be the case in 2012. With no constitutional officers up for election, the DFL will spend all the resources necessary to regain control of the legislature.

Secondly, outside organizations and donors have made it perfectly clear they intend to do everything possible to retake the majority.

- In August, DFL fundraising powerhouse WIN Minnesota hired a new executive director who stated that they are focused on “changing the leadership at the Legislature.”
- In September, Politico reported that the powerful AFL-CIO is considering focusing their spending on state level races.
- In late October, the Star Tribune highlighted DFL mega donor Alida Messinger. The article states that “she is vowing to do all she can to help the DFL regain control of the Legislature.”

Fortunately, groups like the Freedom Club and its members spent millions during the 2010 election. We are prepared to stand up and fight for conservative candidates and values in 2012.

- **Misconception:** Since we already have one constitutional amendment on the 2012 ballot, we can't afford to dilute the ballot with additional amendments.
- **Fact:** In 2004, the non-partisan House Research Department updated an analysis titled “Minnesota State Constitutional Amendments: Frequency, Number and Ratification Rates.” The analysis concludes that “the highest ratification rates occur with two, three or four questions on the ballot.” Moreover, the ratification rate increases from just 43 percent with one question on the ballot to well into the 60th and 70th percentile with two, three or four questions.

- **Misconception:** If Minnesota were to become a Freedom of Employment state, collective bargaining would no longer exist and workers would not be able to have union representation.
- **Fact:** The Employee Freedom Constitutional Amendment will not eliminate collective bargaining. In fact, unions will continue to exist and will continue collecting dues. However, individuals would be given the freedom to decide on their own whether they want to join a union or pay union dues. Individuals would not be forced to join a union or pay union dues as a condition of employment as they are currently required.

What's next?

- The Freedom Club urges state lawmakers to restore individual worker freedoms and pass an Employee Freedom Constitutional Amendment during the 2012 legislative session.
- This is the sole 2012 policy priority for the Freedom Club.
- We look forward to working with all interested parties and supporters to make Minnesota the best place to live, work and raise a family for our generation and many more to come.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Scholl at 763-476-7082 or Ryan Griffin at 612-669-0493.

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